

## 04-144 Commissioner of Elections

The mission of the Department of Elections and Registration is to provide to the citizens of Louisiana the most efficient, honest, and reliable elections. The elections will be held using the best techniques and technology available. All action will be directed toward instilling confidence in the election process for all Louisiana voters.

The goals of the Department of Elections and Registration are:

1. Be prepared for any official election by holding in a state of readiness all equipment and personnel required to hold such elections.
2. Provide and program the best available equipment for all elections.
3. Provide the list of eligible voters to ensure that everyone qualified has the chance to exercise his/her right to vote.
4. Faithfully administer the laws governing voter registration and elections and provide support to all state and local election officers.
5. Pay all election expenses (excluding the printing of ballots and election precinct supplies).
6. Maintain the statewide voter registration system.

The Department of Elections and Registration is under the direction of the commissioner of elections, who is authorized under Article IV, Section 12, of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 to exercise all functions of the state relating to the custody of voting machines and voter registration.

The election system in Louisiana is unique. Louisiana is the only state with an open primary system of election. In addition, Louisiana is the only state that has a separate department of elections charged with holding all elections in the state. Louisiana's Department of Elections and Registration was the first state in the nation to have a statewide, computerized voter registration system. It is the intention of the department to continue as a leader and innovator in the election field and to serve as a model for election systems throughout the nation.

The Department of Elections and Registration includes five programs: Executive Program, Management and Finance Program, Information Technology Program, Voter Registration Program, and Elections Program.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 1999- 2000	ACT 11 2000 - 2001	EXISTING 2000 - 2001	CONTINUATION 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$26,073,780	\$28,686,353	\$29,369,754	\$23,024,690	\$23,666,678	(\$5,703,076)
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	1,927,283	2,534,000	2,534,000	2,534,000	2,534,000	0
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING</b>	<b>\$28,001,063</b>	<b>\$31,220,353</b>	<b>\$31,903,754</b>	<b>\$25,558,690</b>	<b>\$26,200,678</b>	<b>(\$5,703,076)</b>
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Executive	\$1,313,879	\$1,219,421	\$1,489,227	\$1,502,808	\$1,516,407	\$27,180
Management and Finance	0	0	826,300	890,458	990,462	164,162
Voting Machines	3,799,019	3,585,131	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	0	0	2,795,200	2,734,706	3,057,607	262,407
Voter Registration	7,216,495	8,510,237	5,141,777	5,543,622	5,418,722	276,945
Elections	15,671,670	17,905,564	21,651,250	14,887,096	15,217,480	(6,433,770)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST</b>	<b>\$28,001,063</b>	<b>\$31,220,353</b>	<b>\$31,903,754</b>	<b>\$25,558,690</b>	<b>\$26,200,678</b>	<b>(\$5,703,076)</b>
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS: Classified	87	73	108	108	100	(8)
Unclassified	5	5	5	5	5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>(8)</b>

This agency's recommended appropriation includes \$ 2,020,124 for short-term debt, including Lease Purchase agreements.

In addition to the above recommended appropriation, \$851,011 will be paid in Fiscal Year 2001-2002 for long-term debt incurred on behalf of this agency from the previous sale of bonds. Total long-term debt service payments for the state for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 are reflected in the Governor's Executive Budget Supporting Document in Non-Appropriated Requirements, Schedule 22-922.

This agency's recommended appropriation also includes the following amount by means of financing for payments on the unfunded accrued liability of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System in accordance with the provisions of Article X, Section 29 of the Constitution of Louisiana:

State General Fund (Direct)	\$274,850
Total	\$274,850